

# Suspect Freed In Strangling

NOV 23 1976

CASTRO VALLEY—A Castro Valley man arrested on suspicion of strangling an 83-year-old patient at a local rest home has been released.

Sheriff's Lt. Keith Boyer said Jerry Wayne Hernandez, 18, of 2481 Grove Way, was freed because there was insufficient evidence to link him with the slaying of Estelle Pike.

According to a report, Mrs. Pike, a paralyzed stroke victim, was found gasping for breath early Sunday in her room at the Charlene Convalescent Hospital at 22424 Charlene Way. She died shortly afterward. The coroner's officer has ruled the death murder by strangling.

Workers reported they had seen an unidentified man in the hospital shortly before Mrs. Pike was discovered. Mr. Boyer said that Mr. Hernandez was arrested after witnesses said his photograph looked like the suspect. However, Mr. Hernandez was released after the witnesses could not positively identify him.

Mr. Boyer said that there was no indication that Mrs. Pike's room had been burglarized.